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ASCLEPIAS STENOPHYLLA **NARROWLEAF MILKWEED**

Narrowleaf Milkweed is a perennial with few, erect and usually unbranched stems that are decumbent or upright, 20-80 cm high and arising from a thick, woody root. The alternate or opposite leaves are 8-18 cm long, but only 1-5 mm wide. Foliage is moderately to sparsely hairy, and the sap is milky. Umbrella-shaped clusters of 10-25 flowers are nearly stemless in the leaf axils on the upper half of the stem. Each greenish-white to yellow flower is only 7-9 mm long and is borne on a hairy stalk that can be up to 1 cm long. Flowers have 5 reflexed corolla lobes that are ca 5 mm long, and 5 erect hoods that are distinctly 3-lobed at the tip and which surround a central column. Erect spindle-shaped fruits are 9-12 cm long and less than 1 cm wide. Each fruit has numerous seeds, each with a white tail that is ca. 3 cm long. Flowering in June-early July.

This species resembles narrow-leaved forms of *ASCLEPIAS VIRIDIFLORA* but the latter has flowers with horns. Both *A. PUMILA* and *A. VERTICILLATA* also have narrow leaves, but the filiform leaves are less than 1.5 mm wide. A hand lens may be needed for positive identification.